



Claim 11. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising sterile filtering said filtrate obtained in step (1).

Claim 17. (Amended) A method of removing and/or inactivating intact or non-intact bacteria, viral material, or prions from a pharmaceutical composition of a purified biologically active interferon protein comprising:

- (1) adding to a solution of the purified interferon protein a non-ionic detergent;
- (2) subjecting the solution containing the non-ionic detergent to filtration on a virus removal filter with a pore size of 10 to 40 nm; and
- (3) recovering the filtrate.